

atures. Dr. Stowe was the candidate of the latter. Bushnell was elected by a vote of 18 out of 28. This is the second unsuccessful effort to elect a Lane teacher to that office. They have come to the sorrowful conclusion that the abolitionists have decided not to give them their suffrages. Let the church get rid of slavery, & they will be ready to do it. Until that time we are afraid to trust them, ~~but~~ not because we think they love slavery, — we know they hate it cordially, — but because they are accustomed to search for the line of duty in the ~~the~~ serpentine windings of "circumstances" rather than in a right line, where alone we believe it is found. This I regard the most prominent point that divides abolitionists from their opposers, the country over. Our good Drs. Beecher & Stowe admit that to do right is always the rule to ^{be} followed at all hazards; but there it is "circumstances" which decide what is right. Such a rule of right puts a tremendous ~~power~~ & destructive power into the hands of wicked men. When they see good men governed by it, they will neglect the force of circumstances, by which they are governed, such there as have in sinful conformity as possible. The only way to counteract this tendency,

What I have said about persons & local matters, you will understand to be confidential, if you please. I am inclined to show your letter to our Lane teachers — think it might do them good. Do you object? — I have a wish to be more candidly in to some where the same might be to no use, as before.

Rev. E. Goodman
Cincinnati. Apr. 17/46

Private
CINCINNATI
APR 19 1846
Rev. Amos A. Phelps
New York City

is to make the force of circumstances as strong as possible, on the ~~point~~ ^{side} of what they regard ultra-reform measures. In this way our good Drs. & many others are made pretty sound antislavery men, where at the West. Let me say here that our junior Professor, Sel-
ber, has more moral independence than either of his colleagues. I cannot but hope he will come out very straight on the vexed question. He was the author of ~~one~~ the articles in the Watchman on "A sin in itself." One word more. I hope it will correspond with your other duties to be at Philadelphia, during the sitting of Gen. Assembly. Get acquainted with Bushnell. He is a strange genius. His partial blindness added to his natural modesty & humility, ~~making~~ make him appear awkward. For his personal appearance strangers will despise him. But his words are mighty & eloquent, & his moral independence such as commands respect from every one. Riches & honor have no charms for him; lots of supporters & friends, no terrors. What he thinks true he will say, what he thinks right he will do, ~~des~~ spite of terrors or allurements. You can serve the cause ~~me~~ by being at his elbow at the Assembly. Give him facts & his eloquence & integrity will make the best use of them. Yours in the best of bonds. E. Goodman

conveniently spared. Stowe's request furnished just the apology
I want for printing what bears so severely on him. The ~~sub-~~
~~impression~~ ^{impression} ~~get~~ ^{gives} means more & more heavily on my mind, that the subject must
be thoroughly sifted, & the religious press has a deep responsibility
in the matter. Your Biblical criticisms were new & interesting,
whether in all respects correct I am not so certain. I have
seen Stowe's first in reply. I think he will not dare treat
you as carelessly as does some others. He is clear in his
statements, but often muddled in his logic: so I think.
Logical minds are ^{often} drawn into gross blunders because they
unwillingly to ^{follow} the leadings of truth with child-like simpli-
city. They are afraid to trust themselves to its implicit guidance
lest it thwart some favorite plan or interest. Their ~~error~~
~~there~~ is, that they attempt to frame their principles to meet
all exigency, per hoc vice, & thus use logic backwards; that
is, draw their premises ^{instead of their conclusions from their premises} ~~from their conclusions~~
a favorite position they must find out some broad principle
broad enough to support it: & if successful are ready to idolize
Eureka! eureka! The organic-sin theory, for instance. It requires
an adept in logic thus to make its syllogisms work both ways.
Common minds know only the honest straight-forward process.
Hence great men will often invent & embrace errors which ~~are~~
~~of humble pretensions~~ are utterly beyond the attainment of men
of humble pretensions. Dr. McGill, in ~~defending the~~ ^{searching}
for a principle on which to defend the C.S. Assembly discovered
that "the religion of Christ is one of great principles rather than minute
precepts; & the church is commissioned to proclaim these principles, &
teach them to all the world, rather than combat specific evils." True!
what an important modern discovery! What a doll, the "Baptist" was
when he undertook to tell soldiers, & publicans, & common people,
specifically, what "specific evils" repentance required them to abandon!
So the American Board must needs find a principle broad enough for
it to stand on with its slave families. This was too great a work for
a common capacity. It required the powers of Dr. Anderson to separate
a "spiritual gospel" from all "social reforms," alias moral reforms; &
even he was not able to discover it until after a missionary expedi-
tion of more than a quarter of a century. And O what a great ^{bad game} ~~game~~!
Eureka! eureka! He has found indeed the broadest basis of anti-
mian heartlessness that ever disgraced the church. "A great advance"
this truly! — But excuse me for boring you with the products of
my own brain, when yours can generate for yourself that which is
far better.
Our Presbytery sent Bro. Bushnell to the Assembly, myself
his alternate. The decision lay between him & myself. I declined in fa-
vor of B. 1. because I thought his extemporaneous powers would best defend
our Presbytery & Synod in the Graham case; & 2. because the difficulty
of sustaining my paper could not bear the expense of time it would
cost me. The ~~the~~ decision was a contested one between Abolitionists & Conser-

hours each day. If ^{you} can have a hope of this it will be a
sufficient motive with you.

The American Board has become to me a painful subject.
Your document read at the Syracuse Convention gave me, & my
family the heart ache; & the further developments of your late
pauze produced another paroxysm. Your Report ~~is~~ I presume
with care for future use, if occasion demanded. I ~~have~~ am
at some loss what duty requires in respect to the Board. In
one thing I am settled, & that is that when the Board promulgate
error, it is to be exposed, & the more promptly ~~from~~ ^{from its} coming
from so high a source. When I ~~saw~~ first saw the report of the
Board I was in the country. Wishing to forestall the judgment of
my readers as far as my own opinion would do it, I entered my earli-
est protest against the principles it promulgated, & founded it in an
editorial letter, not knowing or regarding the effect it would have
on my subscription list, as my subscribers generally were
warmly attached to the Board. Many were grieved, as I expect-
ed, to have any thing said that would ~~hazard~~ the jeopardize the
funds of the Board. But the current of disapprobation was set & has
been moving on irresistibly. Once its conservative friends ^{here} regret
that it did not take a more advanced stand. — The resolutions
of our Synod you have seen. The author of those was your
humble servant. They passed with a very strong majority,
only three or four "noes." ~~Nothing~~ Nothing less potent than those res-
olutions would have saved the Board from being abandoned by
~~our~~ many of our churches. I cannot yet be reconciled to such
an abandonment. Our churches need the influence of that mission-
ary spirit, which are interest in the missions of the Board
& their prospects awakeners. Still ~~it~~ I would be glad to see an
other Board, under proper auspices & direction, & many
of the present missions transferred to them. But the future
I am willing to leave to Providence. Continued earnestly for
the truth, & God will take care of the events.

Your letters to Stone I have read with deep interest.
The subject of publishing in the W. the whole correspondence ^{is under consideration.}
Am afraid it will require more space than can be

Cincinnati April 17th 1845

Dear Brother Phelps

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The receipt of your former favor prompted me ^{at the time} to commence an answer from the fulcra of my heart, but was choked off before I had finished 20 lines by the interruption of business. Perhaps this letter will share a similar fate.

Let me say, first, when you favor me with ~~a~~ a communication, always so rich a treat as yours are, don't tax yourself with the postage.

You speak of your labors. I was amazed at them a moment, ~~before~~ you gave what I knew of them before, as well as humbled at the contrast which they present to my own, though I strive to go to the extent of my physical & intellectual capacity. I may be greatly mistaken, but it seems to me you are rendering the most important service to the anti-slavery cause of any man in the nation. I believe the Lord has raised you up for a great work & endowed you with the requisite power & industry; & I am very anxious that ^{your} power — especially physical — should be husbanded for future use, as well as employed in present service. The church, the nation, & the world, are interested in the preservation of your health. With proper care, regular rest & meals, proper diet, & sufficient exercise, in the open air, the physical system will hold out to a miracle. One practice is becoming quite common; perhaps you have adopted it. I have saved myself from the consumption by it, & restored diseased lungs to almost perfect soundness; & my experience is that of many others: — I take general washing in cold water every morning, winter & summer, rubbing off smartly with a brush towel. Do it yourself, if you have not done it & the slave will be likely to have many more years of your efficient service, & perhaps some more